

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS: RWSMITH:LD
APPROVED BY T - MRS. BENSON
NEA/PAB - MR. BERRY
ACDA - MR. PAJAK (SUBSTANCE)
PM/SAS-MR KOCHANЕК
PM/NPP - MR. OPLINGER
S/S-O:TGMARTIN

-----082621 191658Z /43

R 191541Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100093

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: GEARING DESTROYER SALE

REF: ISLAMABAD 1255

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM UNDER SECRETARY BENSON

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN OVER THE SHIP TRANSFER
QUESTION AND WISH TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON EVENTS SINCE
YOUR TELEGRAM.

2. LAST SUMMER WE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE NAVY'S PROPOSAL
TO OFFER FOR SALE TO PAKISTAN TWO DESTROYERS AND A REPAIR
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SHIP. UNDER BYRD AMENDMENT PROCEDURES, THOSE DESTROYERS
REQUIRE 30-DAY NOTIFICATION TO THE CONGRESS (ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEES), WHILE THE REPAIR SHIP REQUIRES SPECIFIC
ENABLING LEGISLATION. WE ASKED NAVY TO HOLD UP SUBMISSION
OF THE CASES TO THE CONGRESS PENDING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
REPROCESSING PLANT ISSUE.

3. AT THE TIME OF YOUR MESSAGE, THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD WERE REVIEWING THE CASE. NAVY DISCOVERED THAT ONE OF THE DESTROYERS HAD BECOME UNSEAWORTHY, AND IT WAS REPROGRAMMED TO BE SCRAPPED. THE OTHER DESTROYER WAS SCHEDULED FOR DECOMMISSIONING FROM THE ACTIVE FLEET JULY 1 AND IN ORDER TO MEET "HOT SHIP" TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO SUBMIT REQUESTS TO CONGRESS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE YEAR IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH TRANSFER. SINCE THE PAKISTAN NAVY WOULD NOT HAVE HAD A TRAINED CREW TO TAKE CUSTODY OF THE SHIP BY JULY 1, THE SHIP IN QUESTION WAS REPROGRAMMED FOR ANOTHER PRIORITY CUSTOMER. RESERVING THE SHIP FOR PAKISTAN BEYOND JULY 1 WOULD HAVE REQUIRED THE USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR MOTHBALLING PURPOSES, WHICH NAVY WOULD HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN JUSTIFYING IN VIEW OF DEMAND FOR THE SHIP. ADMIRAL WEISNER WAS INFORMED OF AND CONCURRED IN THE ABOVE DECISION.

4. AT THE PRESENT TIME, NAVY IS UPDATING THE AVAILABILITY OF REMAINING GEARING-CLASS DESTROYERS. PAKISTAN REMAINS A PRIORITY CUSTOMER FOR THOSE SHIPS, AND WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. THE REPAIR SHIP REMAINS EARMARKED FOR PAKISTAN. MEANWHILE, IF ASKED, YOU MAY INFORM THE GOP THAT THE USG IS CONTINUING TO KEEP THE PN'S REQUIREMENTS FOR DESTROYERS IN MIND. CHRISTOPHER

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